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AARDVARK-VANAHEIM PRESENTS

CEREBUS

51
JUN

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EXODUS

A Note from the Publisher

Between issues, this month, Dave and I did a little travelling. We've never done many shop appearances before, but now that we've tried it, I think we'll be doing more in the future. On May 1st, we were in Baldwin, New York at The Incredible Pulp. Larry Mirando has a real nice little shop out on Long Island and we met some great fans. We both enjoyed the visit, not to mention the fact it gave us a chance to chat a bit with Bob and Debbie Greenburger, a treat that we look forward to when we get in the New York City area.

On May 21st, we were in Weedsport, New York for another signing. If you're not sure where that is, neither was I. In point of fact, it turned out that it is only a five hour drive from Kitchener, in upper state New York. That week-end felt almost like a vacation for us. Having never been to a small American town, it was very relaxing to just wander around. I spent a fair amount of time roaming with my camera, on the Friday evening that we arrived. The signing on Saturday was relaxed and comfortable and I even had the chance to try a new experience - 3D glasses!!! It may make you dizzy, or give you a headache, but I now feel that my childhood has been completed.

Our UNIQUE STORY this month is the first half of a two-part story by Joshua Quagmire. His creation, Cutey Bunny, is one of the funniest send-ups of super heroes (heroines?) that I've ever seen. I first saw Cutey Bunny at Hi De Ho Comics in Santa Monica, California. Dave and I were there during our 1982 US Tour, and I was just sitting and watching Dave talk to his fans when someone dropped a copy of Cutey Bunny on the table. I picked it up, intending to just flip through it, and ended up reading the whole issue. I was intrigued, and put it aside to show Dave. Then I found out that the artist was in the shop. I looked over to see a mountain of a man, quietly trying to get up the nerve to ask Dave to sign his copy of Cerebus. Joshua is one of the nicest, most unassuming and yet funny people I have ever met. I asked him right then to do a Cutey Bunny story for UNIQUE STORIES. The result is in this issue and the next. If you like it, I urge you to go out and pick up a copy of Cutey Bunny or order it directly from Joshua. I don't think you'll regret it.

Since I've taken over the Cerebus Fan Club we have had a few of the member's mailings come back to us because they have moved. Since I have no way of finding these people, I am asking you to help me out. If you know any of the people on our "missing persons list", could you send us their new address? A postcard will do fine. If you are on the list - please let us know where you are because we owe you some newsletters etc. from the fan club. Here is the list:

Bruce Albright
1530 Adams Street, #2
Denver, CO., 80206

Alan Snider
4513 Woodman Ave.,
Sherman Oaks, CA., 91403

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That's it for now, see you next month

Deni

CEREBUS

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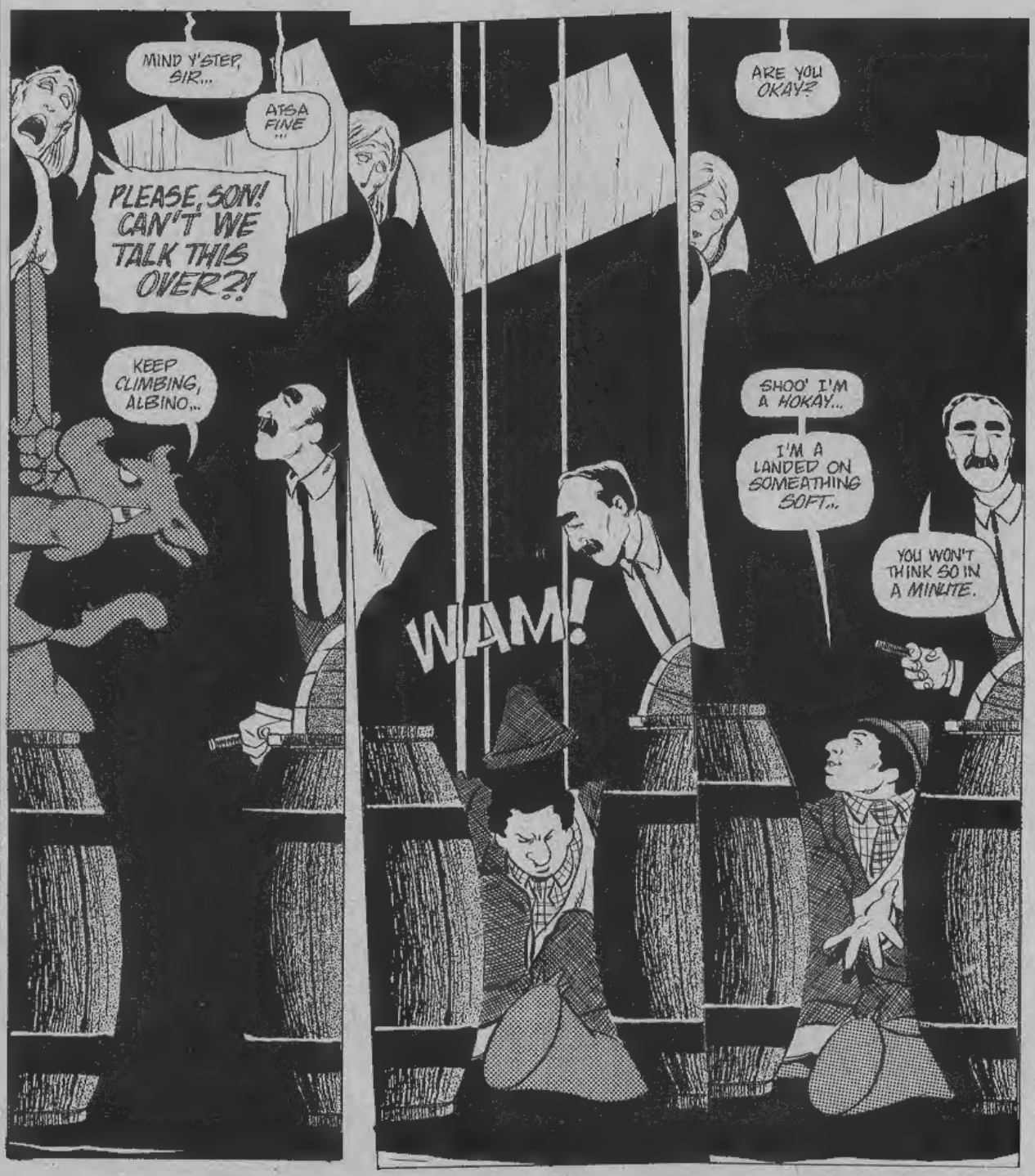
COR--I DON'T KNOW 'OW YOU MADE IT TO THE RIVER WITHOUT GETTIN' NICKED, SIR...
LUCKY F'YOU THAT I GOT ROOM F'YER ...
MIND Y'STEP NOW, SIR...
MIND Y'STEP ...
HOW LONG BEFORE WE GET TO TOGITH...
EARLY IN THE MORNING, SIR ...NOT A LONG JOURNEY AT ALL, SIR...
FIRST CEREBUS LOSES A WHOLE CITY-STATE ...
AND NOW HE HAS TO TRAVEL ALL THE WAY TO TOGITH IN A CLOSET...
NOTHING EVER GOES RIGHT ...

I-- I SAY-- I WOULDN'T SAY THAT, SON!
AFTER ALL...
AT LEAST YOU HAVE COMPANY.

THIS IS TOO MUCH!-- CEREBUS CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE ...
IF YOU THINK THIS IS BAD WAIT'LL YOU TRY THE MEALS...
HARDTACK AND RAW POTATOES ...
DON'T TRY TO CHEER ME UP!
CHEER YOU UP?
AFTER THEY ARRESTED MY GOAT?
I FELT CLOSER TO THAT GOAT THAN I DID TO YOUR MOTHER ...
WHICH IS AS SAD A COMMENTARY ON MARRIAGE TODAY AS YOU'RE LIKELY TO FIND ...
CEREBUS DOESN'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT ...
THEY CHARGED HIM WITH 'CONDUCT UNBECOMING A FARM ANIMAL'...
BLASPHEMY, THAT IS...
CEREBUS-DOESN'T WANT-TO-TALK ABOUT-IT...
HE WOULD HAVE GOTTEN A SUSPENDED SENTENCE IF HE COULD'VE RECITED THE FIRST FIVE LINES OF "TARIM IS MY SHEPHERD, I SHALL NOT BLEAT."
CEREBUS OUGHT TO CARVE YOU INTO TINY CHUNKS
ME? WHAT DID I DO?

YOU KEPT RAISING THE INTEREST RATES!
MAKING CEREBUS PAY FOR LOWER FELDA'S DAMN DEBTS!
I SUPPOSE YOU THINK ITS EASY RAISING INTEREST RATES...
FORECLOSING ON PEOPLE'S OFFSPRING WHEN THEY USE THEM FOR COLLATERAL!
YOU FORECLOSE ON PEOPLE'S CHILDREN?!
ARE YOU KIDDING? HE'S GOT A GOVERNMENT ORPHANAGE THAT TAKES UP FOUR CITY BLOCKS, SON
FOUR CITY BLOCKS?!
WHAT DO YOU DO WITH THEM ALL?
USE 'EM FOR COLLATERAL...
THAT'S DISGUSTING
HE USES-- I SAY-- HE USES THE SHORT ONES FOR UMBRELLA STANDS...
YOU COULD BE DISINHERITED WITH THE STROKE OF A PEN, YOU KNOW...

WELL-- IT'S LIKE MY DADDY --MY OTHER DADDY-- ALWAYS USED TO SAY--
"YOU CAN BE THE LAST RULER OF A DYING RACE BUT THAT-- I SAY-- THAT DON'T SCALE THE FISH..."
WHAT WAS HE -- A COOK?
NO! NO! A MOUNTAIN-CLIMBER
MOUNT FISH WAS THE TALLEST MOUNTAIN IN ALL OF MELVINBONE...
HE CALLED IT HIS GREATEST CHALLENGE AFTER AUNT LOUISE ...
I'M GOING TO HATE MYSELF FOR THIS.
AUNT LOUISE?
MY SAINTED MOTHER'S YOUNGER SISTER! SHE WAS BUILT LIKE A BRICK CHIMNEY ...
SMOKE-STACKED THAT IS...
MY MOTHER CAUGHT DADDY TRYING T'SCALE HER AT THE MELVINBONE INDEPENDENCE DAY FESTIVAL ...AND SHE TOOK A...
ULK
THAT DOES IT ALBINO!
CEREBUS DOESN'T HAVE TO PUT UP WITH YOU!
WE'RE NOT IN 1ST ANYMORE ...
YOU'RE LEAVING! ...
LEAVING!? BUT WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A RIVER, SON ...
HEH HEH HEH


MIND Y'STEP, SIR...
ATSA FINE ...
PLEASE, SON! CAN'T WE TALK THIS OVER?!
KEEP CLIMBING, ALBINO...
WAM!
ARE YOU OKAY?
SHOO' I'M A HOKAY...
I'M A LANDED ON SOMEATHING SOFT...
YOU WON'T THINK SO IN A MINUTE.

'EY! I KNOW HIM-- HE'S A USETA BE D'PRIMARY ADMINISTER OF 'EST
...
HE ALSO USED TO BE THREE DIMENSIONAL
DO YOU THINK HE'LL KILL ALL THREE OF US OR JUST --I SAY-- JUST THE ONE WHO LANDED ON HIM
...
I THINK WE'LL BE LUCKY IF HE DOESN'T GNAW THROUGH THE BOTTOM OF THE BOAT AND DROWN US...
WELL, IF WE'RE GOING TO DIE, YOU CAN CONSOLE Y'SELF WITH THE FACT THAT YOUR LAST FEW MOMENTS WILL BE SPENT WITH Y'NEAREST AND DEAREST
...
FRIENDS, THAT IS!
YOU WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO HAVE ANY QUICK-ACTING POISON YOU MIGHT WANT TO SELL...
NAW, ALL I'M BROUGHT-A WITH ME...
WAS-A NIIICE-A FAAT-A
JUICY-A
HUNK A-MEAT
SHE'S A MY LUNCH

'EY! LET GO! ATSA MY LUNCH!
I'LL GIVE YOU FIFTY CROWNS FOR IT...!
I'LL GIVE YOU--I SAY-- I'LL GIVE Y'A HUNDRED!
GET-A YOU HANDS OFF! STOP-A DROOLING ON IT!!
YOU HAVEN'T GOT A HUNDRED CROWNS!
YOU HAVEN'T GOT FIFTY!
OH--WELL IF YOU'RE GOING TO FALL BACK ON A TECHNICALITY...!
LET-A GO!
BIF!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!
WE GOT A SHIPMENT IN FROM NEW SEPRA...
A JOINT OF BEEF AND A HUNDRED AND FIFTY POUNDS OF SUET...
SAY! IT'S A GETTING CROWDED IN HE'E
WE WEREN'T CROWDED BEFORE YOU SHOWED UP...
AT'S OKAY-- I-A WASN'T CROWDED BEFORE I-A SHOWED OP EITHER
WAIT'LL I FIND MY SWORD!!
MAYBE WE SHOULD-A HELP HIM LOOK ...
NO!
HOKAY...

YOU COULD AT LEAST SHARE IT WITH US...
NO SHAKE NOTHING I'M A GROWING A BOY.
QUIET!
NO, YOUR REVERENCE, THIS IS JUST A HUMBLE TRADIN VESSEL
WE GOT NO OUTLAWS ABOARD
WHAT'S DOWN THERE?
SOME BARRELS OF SPICES
MMM
D'BETTER HAVE A LOOK...
YES YOUR REVERENCE
THERE YOU GO
SAP
WATCH Y STEP YOUR REVERENCE

THE PURELY PLATONIC PRIEST ROACH DESCENDS THE RICKETY STEPS--ALL FIFTY FIVE OF HIS PSIONIC PSON OF TARIM ROACH SENSES SCANNING THE STORAGE SPACE
"THESE ATHEISTS ARE A SUPERSTITIOUS AND COWARDLY LOT" HE OPINES
"SO MY DISGUISE MUST STRIKE TERROR IN THEIR
WHO ARE YOU?
ME? I'M-A DA SPICE GUARD..
YEAH?
WHAT DOES A SPICE GUARD DO?
I GUARD AGAINST-A SPICE MICE
SPICE MICE!?
DOWN! DOWN! I'M A KILL-A Y'U- I'M A SOME-A TOUGH A GUY.
SQUEAK
SQUEAK I SAY SQUEAK
SQUEAK
STAMP STAMP
YOU'RE FOREIGN AREN'T YOU?
NAH I WAS BORN ON DIS A BOAT

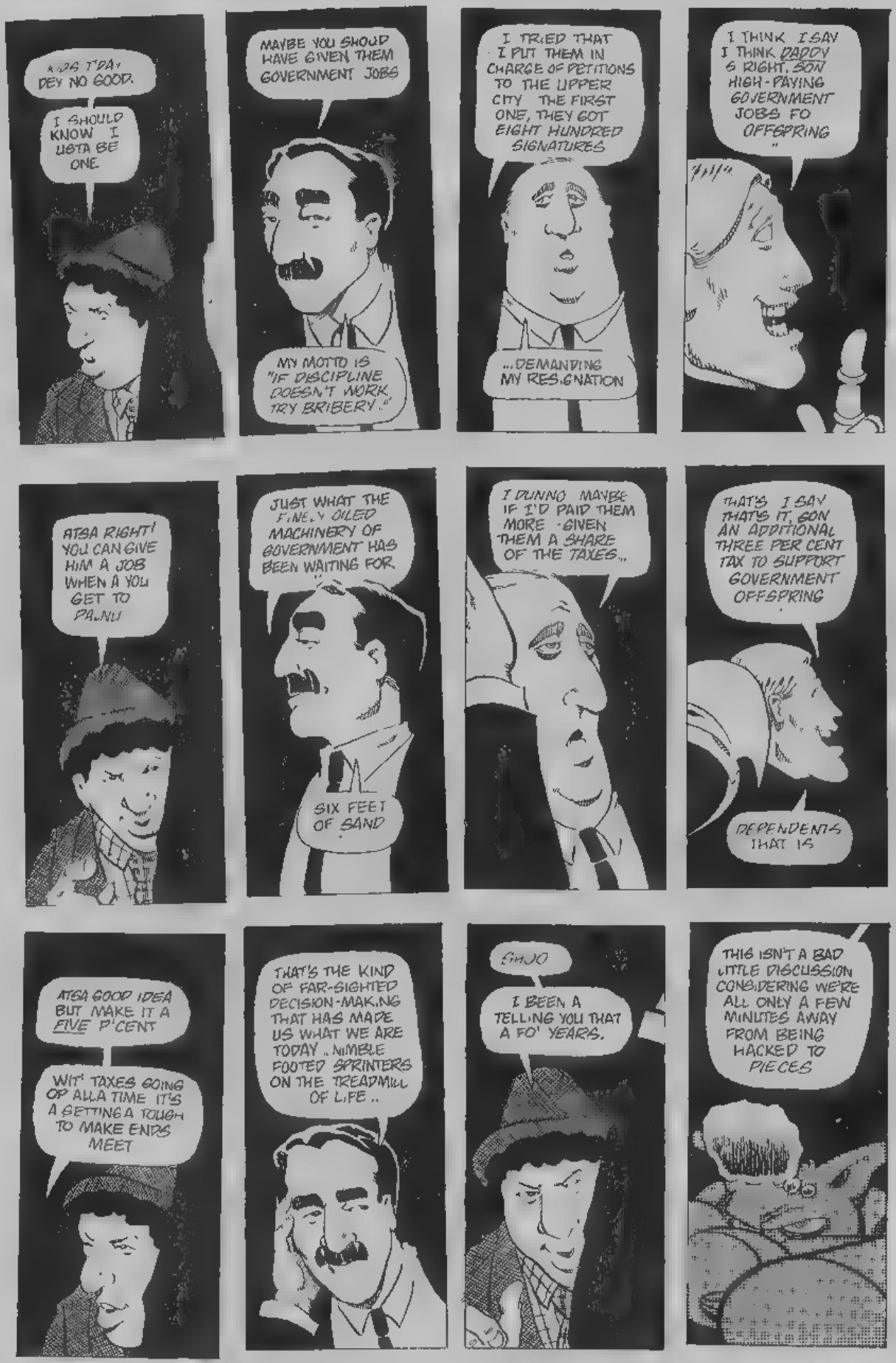
A SE GU'S EH?
I CAN'T ARREST YOU, BECAUSE THERE'S NO LAW AGAINST TALKING FUNNY NOT YET, ANYHOW!
ATSA FINE
BUT I'M KEEPING MY EYE ON YOU --GET ME?
SHOO--YOU A REAL SMARTA COOKIE... I BET A YOU GOT EYES ON A BOTH SIDES OF YOU FACE...
THAT'S RIGHT!
REMEMBER NOW I'LL BE WATCHING YOU...
CHUC
IF I DO ANYTHING-A WRONG, LET ME KNOW SO I CAN A PAY ATTENTION AN' ENJOY IT..
HAVING PUT THE SNIVELLING SPICE GUARD IN HIS PLACE, THE PASSIONATELY PIOUS PRIEST ROACH LEAPS NIMBLY UP THE STEPS...TO BE A LEADER OF THE CHOSEN PEOPLE IS NO EASY...
CLIK
S HE GONE?
I THINK A HE'S BEEN GONE FO' YEARS...

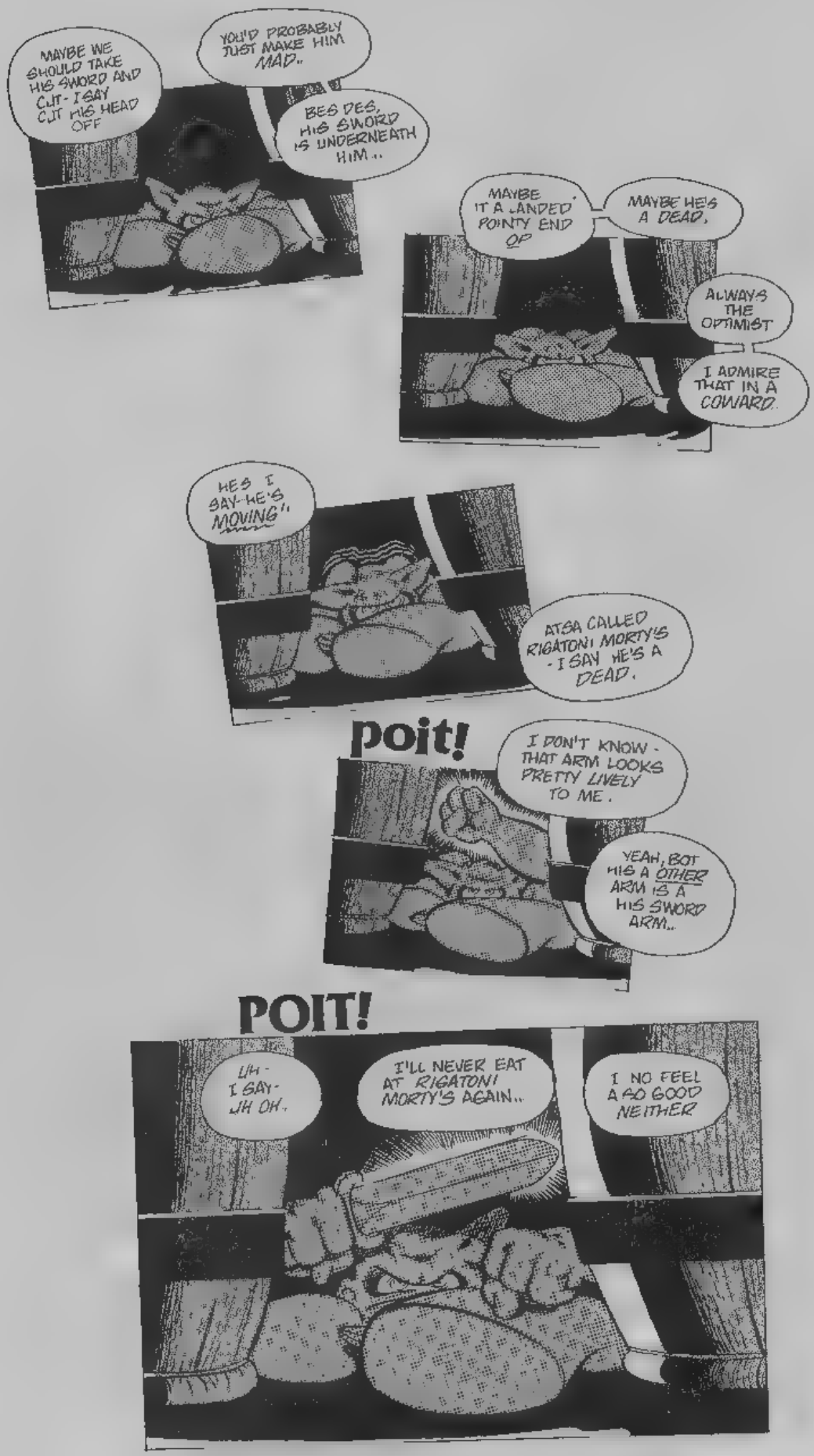
IS IT MY IMAGINATION OR WAS THAT A VEILED THREAT?
I THINK I SAY I THINK IT WAS MORE LIKE A HOODED BOOB.
MORON, THAT IS
WAL, WHATEVER IT WAS WE'RE A SAFE, NOW...
AHA
BUT THEN I'VE A BEEN WRONG BEFORE.
CEREBUS NEEDS A VOLUNTEER
WHO WANTS TO GET SLICED AND DICED FIRST
HIM
IN THAT CASE CEREBUS WILL HAVE TO PICK HIS OWN VOLUNTEER
EENEE
MEENEE
MINEE

THOM
MUH !!

HANKS FOR DROPPING BY
IT'S A PLEASURE BE HERE... A PLEASURE
BUT THEN, WHEN Y'HEALTH IS AS BAD AS MINE, IT'S A PLEASURE T'BE ANYWHERE YKNOWHUDIMEAN?
MUH?
BAD HEALTH EH?
YOU KIDDIN? MY HEALTH HAS ALWAYS BEEN BAD..
I WAS THE ONLY BABY EVER BORN WITH DOUBLE PNEUMONIA..

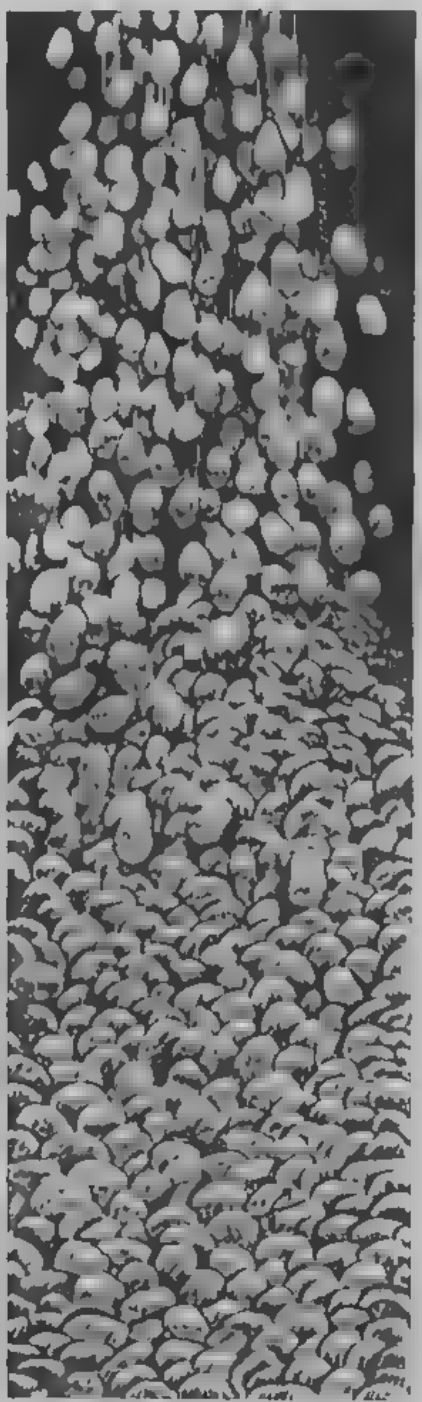
AND BAD HEALTH AIN'T THE WORST OF IT, Y KNOW?
I'VE ALWAYS HAD TROUBLES WITH WOMEN -- NO LUCK WITH WOMEN AT ALL..
YOU USED TO BE IN CEREBUS CABINET, DIDN'T YOU?
ATA WON'T WORK..
HUH?
NO LUCK WITH WOMEN?
I TOLD A Y'U
ARE YOU KIDDIN?
I USED TO TAKE 'EM ON CARRIAGE RIDES..
THEY'D ASK IF THEY COULD RIDE UP FRONT
WITH THE DRIVER..
THAT'S - I SAY THAT'S ROUGH, SON
ROUGH? MY WHOLE LIFE IS ROUGH..
MY YOUNGEST. FIVE YEARS OLD. HE WANTS TO KNOW IF I'D MIND IF HE PUT HIMSELF UP FOR ADOPTION
ROUGH HOME LIFE TOO?
ROUGH HOME LIFE? LISTEN DON'T GET ME STARTED ON THAT
MY MOTHER-IN-LAW - AT THE WEDDING -- SHE WORE A HOOD SO NO ONE COULD IDENTIFY HER LATER
LAST YEAR ON MY BIRTHDAY, MY KIDS ALL CHIPPED IN AND BOUGHT ME A TICKET TO BOREALA..
ONE WAY


DEY NO GOOD.
I SHOULD KNOW I USTA BE ONE
MAYBE YOU SHOULD HAVE GIVEN THEM GOVERNMENT JOBS
MY MOTTO IS "IF DISCIPLINE DOESN'T WORK, TRY BRIBERY."
I TRIED THAT I PUT THEM IN CHARGE OF PETITIONS TO THE UPPER CITY THE FIRST ONE, THEY GOT EIGHT HUNDRED SIGNATURES
...DEMANDING MY RESIGNATION
I THINK I SAY I THINK DADDY'S RIGHT, SON HIGH-PAYING GOVERNMENT JOBS FO OFFSPRING
ATSA RIGHT! YOU CAN GIVE HIM A JOB WHEN A YOU GET TO PA.NU
JUST WHAT THE FINELY OILED MACHINERY OF GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN WAITING FOR.
SIX FEET OF SAND
I DUNNO MAYBE IF I'D PAID THEM MORE -GIVEN THEM A SHARE OF THE TAXES..
THAT'S I SAY THAT'S IT, SON AN ADDITIONAL THREE PER CENT TAX TO SUPPORT GOVERNMENT OFFSPRING
DEPENDENTS THAT IS
ATSA GOOD IDEA BUT MAKE IT A FIVE P'CENT
WIT' TAXES GOING UP ALLA TIME IT'S A SETTING A TOUGH TO MAKE ENDS MEET
THAT'S THE KIND OF FAR-SIGHTED DECISION-MAKING THAT HAS MADE US WHAT WE ARE TODAY .. NIMBLE FOOTED SPRINTERS ON THE TREADMILL OF LIFE ..
GHJO
I BEEN A TELLING YOU THAT A FO' YEARS.
THIS ISN'T A BAD LITTLE DISCUSSION CONSIDERING WE'RE ALL ONLY A FEW MINUTES AWAY FROM BEING HACKED TO PIECES


MAYBE WE SHOULD TAKE HIS SWORD AND CUT- I SAY CUT HIS HEAD OFF
YOU'D PROBABLY JUST MAKE HIM MAD..
BES DES, HIS SWORD IS UNDERNEATH HIM..
MAYBE IT A LANDED POINTY END OP
MAYBE HE'S A DEAD,
ALWAYS THE OPTIMIST
I ADMIRE THAT IN A COWARD.
HES I SAY-HE'S MOVING!.
ATSA CALLED RIGATONI MORTY'S - I SAY HE'S A DEAD.
poit!
I DON'T KNOW - THAT ARM LOOKS PRETTY LIVELY TO ME.
YEAH, BOT HIS A OTHER ARM IS A HIS SWORD ARM..
POIT!
UH - I SAY- UH OH.
I'LL NEVER EAT AT RIGATONI MORTY'S AGAIN..
I NO FEEL A SO GOOD NEITHER

POIT
BE I SAY BE REASONABLE, SON
REASONABLE!
CEREBUS IS TIRED OF BEING REASONABLE..
CEREBUS IS GOING TO TRY HOMICIDAL INSTEAD!
CEREBUS IS GOING TO CHOP ALL OF YOU UP AND MAKE BUREAUCRAT STEW..
CEREBUS
CEREBUS IS..
AHA!
I'M READY FOR YOU THIS TIME!
WHOEVER YOU ARE THIS TIME DROP RIGHT DOWN HERE AND CEREBUS WILL...

KA



SHOOM

NO NO! Y FLAM-N IDIOT! -I SA D T'DROP THE P TATOES IN THE REAR 'OLD...
AWFULLY SORRY, GENTS A LITTLE M.SUNDERSTANDIN' AT S ALL
AVE IT CLEANED UP IN A JIFF..
HEY! YOU UP THERE WHERE ARE WE DOCKED NOW?
WHY PORT SEPRANIA, S.R ..
DON'T CLOSE THAT TRAP!
CEREBUS IS LEAVING..
LEAVING.. ? I CAN'T REFUND YOUR FARE FOR THE OTHER A.F OF YOUR TRIP, S.R.
CEREBUS DOESN'T WANT A REFUND - CEREBUS WANTS OUT!

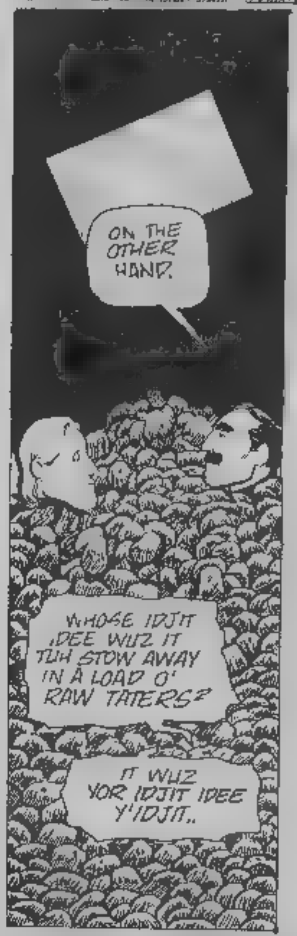
THAT - I SAY THAT'S A GREAT IDEA, SON.
IN FACT, I THINK I'LL

STAY RIGHT HERE WHERE I BELONG

THAT'S IT SIR-- UP AND OUT

WELL, AT LEAST WE'LL HAVE A LITTLE EXTRA ROOM WHEN THEY GET THESE POTATOES OUT OF HERE

DIRTY DREW WHAR ARE YUH AT ?
AHM UPSIDE DOWNEE DIRTY FLEAGLE!!


ON THE OTHER HAND.
WHOSE IDJIT IDEE WUZ IT TUH STOW AWAY IN A LOAD O' RAW TATERS?
IT WUZ YOR IDJIT IDEE Y'IDJIT..

A UNIQUE STORY

IT'S SORT OF A FUMBLY BUMBLY AFTERNOON IN THE SCENIC UPTOWN SECTION OF DOWNTOWN PEORIA...A DAY MUCH LIKE ANY OTHER...WELL ALMOST LIKE ANY OTHER...YES, PEORIA, HOME OF...

THAT'S RIGHT, YOU BEADY-EYED LITTLE BUNNY WATCHERS, CUTEY BUNNY, WHO IS IN REALITY CPL. KELLY O'HARE,.. AND THIS PARTICULAR AFTERNOON SHE IS TYPING OUT VARIOUS FORMS IN DUPLICATE, TRIPLICATE,...

QUADRUPLICATE, AND A FEW EVEN IN OCTOHEXTRIPLICATE WHEN...

FATTY TUBBINS! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
SHHHHH,... I'M ON A CASE AS ASTRO CAT!!
CUTEY BUNNY IS FEATURED IN ARMY SURPLUS KOMIKZ #1&2. AVAILABLE FROM JOSHUA GUAGMIRE ENTERPRISES

THIS IS FATTY TUBBINS, SOMETIMES CARTOONIST'S ASSISTANT AND PART TIME CAT,.. ALSO KNOWN AS...

YES, ASTRO CAT, THE FELINE FURY, WHO WHEN EVIL REARS IT'S UGLY HEAD, USUALLY CALLS A COP... OCCASIONALLY HOWEVER...

UHH,.. JOSH SENT ME DOWN TO ASK IF YOU'VE SEEN A 40 FOOT DINOSAUR AROUND HERE,... WE KINDA LOST TRACK OF IT...
A DINOSAUR??? TUBBINS DON'T BE SILLY! THERE AREN'T ANY DINOSAURS IN PEORIA, AN THERE HAVEN'T BEEN FOR MILLIONS AND MILLIONS AN MILLIONS...
NO FOOLIN'... JUST $1.50 PLUS 50¢ POSTAGE. EACH

WELL..AT LEAST NOT SINCE LAST WEEK... NOW RUN ALONG AND DON'T BOTHER ME. I'M BUSY!
SEND YOUR CASH TO JOSHUA GUAGMIRE P.O. BOX 2223 HOLLYWOOD CAL. 90078 AND DO IT QUICK WE NEED THE MONEY!

HEY YOU! G'WAN HOME! SHE SAYS SHE DOESN'T WANT TO FIGHT TODAY!
GOSHAROOTY! IT IS A DINOSAUR!! A ROBOT DINOSAUR!!!
U.S. ARMED CES RECRUITING
QUICKLY KELLY O'HARE RUBS HER MYSTIC EGYPTIAN AMULET, GIVEN TO HER BY RE-HARAHKTE AND IS TRANSFORMED INTO...
THIS IS A JOB FOR CUTEY BU...
SWAT
SNAP
FLOP!!
CRACK
KELLY, KELLY! ARE YOU ALRIGHT?!?
2

MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE ROBOT DINOSAUR...WHICH WE SEE IS CONTROLLED BY NONE OTHER THAN MASTER CRIMINAL GELVING SHAVINSKY, AN EVIL GENIUS, MAD SCIENTIST, UNCONSCIONABLE BLACKGUARD, AND THE WORLD'S SECOND DIRTIEST TIDDLEYWINKS PLAYER...

QUICKLY... SCHNELL!! VE MUST MAKE MIT DER GETAWAY! LITTLE BROTHER SEDRIG, VINCH DER DINOSAUR INTO DER TRAILER! HILDA, MINE VROBOT, STARTEN DER ENGINE! UNT NOW, OFF TO DER BANK!! UNT VE MAKEN DER, HEH, HEH WITHDRAWAL...!
MCG

DANKE SCHÖN? NYA HA HA HA HA HA HAAAAAA!
HEY! THAT WAS MASTER CRIMINAL GELVING SHAVINSKY!
YOU HEARD ME! I FOUGHT HIM IN ARMY SURPLUS KOMIKZ #2!
QUICKLY, KELLY ONCE AGAIN RUBS HER MYSTIC AMULET..
AND CHANGES FROM ROCKET BUNNY TO ROLLER BUNNY..!
C'MON!
HEY!
OH... HAS THAT THING BEEN PUBLISHED..?
MCGS
WHO..?
KELLY'S SKATES ARE POWERED BY MINIATURE ELECTRIC MOTORS IN THE WHEELS, ENABLING HER TO RACE AT HIGH SPEED, TURN CORNERS, AND DEFY SEVERAL IMPORTANT LAWS OF PHYSICS...
BYAKC
BUT... NOT ALL LAWS, IT SEEMS...
VAS?
HEY! PULL OVER, SHAVINSKY!
MCGS AMUSEM'NT INC. CALL 374-2820
HEH, HEH... DER BUNNY IST KAPUT!!
DOT VILL TEACH HER TO RUN DER SCHTOPPEN SIGN..!
M.C.G.S.
NYA HA HA HA HA HA HAAAAAAA! NOW I HAF DER GIRL, I HAF DER GUN, UNT NEXT ISSUE, ZOM BODIES GOING TO GET DER VERKS!
UNT DON'T NONE UF YOU READERS TRY TO ERASE THIS GUN!!
AAAIN
TO BE CONTINUED..!
4.

AARDVARK COMMENT

P.O. BOX 1674, STATION 'C', KITCHENER, ONT. N2G 4R2

Dear Mr. Sim:

I view with apprehension your use of photostatting techniques in Cerebus. Oh, I suppose they can be used effectively (Frank Miller's "Roulette" in Daredevil is a good example), and xeroxing backgrounds is okay, but in general photostatting leads to dull, static layouts. The scene in Cerebus #49 with the Fleagle brothers could have been improved by putting all their dialogue in a single panel. I know the xerox machine must be a boon to the harried artist - but it's not creative.

Otherwise, Cerebus #49 was your best yet, which is saying alot. Pp 6-12 were your most virtuasic showpieces since the first "Mind Game".

Are you thinking of separating Cerebus' eyes?

Allen Varney
664 College Avenue,
Stanford, CA., 94306

I'm afraid I don't agree with you on xeroxing leading to "dull, static layouts". I have not used the technique until recently because I was unable to duplicate panels as exactly as I wanted without photocopying. I consider photocopying a major tool in the kind of pages I want to do with the kind of accuracy I'm looking for. If I had put all of the McGrew Brothers dialogue into one balloon, it would have altered the mood and pacing I was trying for and given Cerebus' reaction line lessened impact. If you don't see photocopying as creative (under any circumstances?) I think you are misinterpreting my intentions with respect to Cerebus' visual side.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Dear Deni and Dave,

An Open Letter to Cerebus Fans.

I am a professor at a small, midwestern university (oops, isn't this the 'Cerebus Advisor'?); I have been collecting comics forever. Even as we near the 17% mark in the Cerebus saga, still there are those who demand explanation and clarification at every step of the way. Well, there are two kinds of Cerebus fans: them and me. I have rarely been as intrigued (literature-wise) in the same way that Sim's Cerebus story has grabbed me. Those others whom I turn on to the story (4 to date) feel likewise. SURE, it CAN be frustrating, funny, curious and/or infuriating not to have all of the answers laid before you with day-glow colored tags to announce them; tough. What in life is? Too many episodes of 'Eight is too Much' have left the world with a 60 minute resolution theory to the solution of problems.

Dave is not sloppy. (Are you Dave?) He knows what he's doing. (Don't you Dave?) I have a faith that the pen is controlled by the man (Dave?) and we can rest assured that each nuance that eventually appears in print has a motivation: if it is important, we'll hear about it sooner or later; if it isn't...well...life IS just full of it's little frustrations and red herrings.

Stop worrying about the particulars, especially the **obvious** off stage (off-page) maneuvers, it's the subtle ones that catch you unaware anyway. Sit back, enjoy the ride. Every month we've an opportunity to take one more step up the mountain. I, personally, would rather make such a delightful journey one step at a time and enjoy the view every step along the way rather than to be dropped off at the summit by helicopter.

Aside to Dave: Live Long and perpetuate.
Best,

Brian Coppola
Asst Professor of Chemistry
313 N. High Street,
Ft. Atkinson, WI., 53538

I don't think I'm sloppy. I know what I intend to do. My pen and I share the job and some part of me is in control at any given time (for the most part). The questions I'm not able to answer are 1) How many of you think I'm sloppy? 2) What am I doing to all of you poor innocent individuals and 3) How can I be sure that part of me is in control at any given moment? Hope I haven't answered your questions. And shouldn't that be "Live long and perpetrate?"

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Dear Mr. Sim:

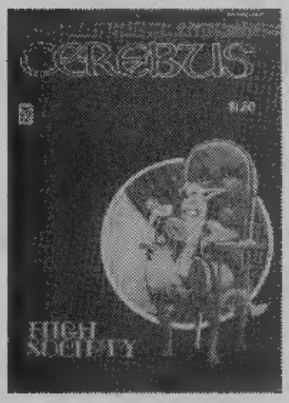
I am only a recent aardvarkian but I've seen "Cerebus" several times before, and even read one or two before.

What can I say that hasn't been said before? He is funny and your writing is great. I don't always get the satirical point of view, as I don't always keep up with comics or Canadian politics, but even without understanding everything you're satirizing, it is still funny and definitely adult.

Your art is very good. I notice a strong influence by Neal Adams in your work. Is he a big influence? Even if he is, your

The finish of issue No. 50, April 25, 1983. Over the next week, I shaved my skimpy mustache off. I also rearranged the studio.

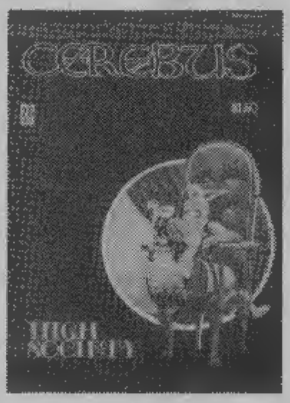
THE 1982 KOPPY AWARDS



Best Novel writing

CEREBUS THE AARDVARK

"High Society"



Best Novel art

CEREBUS THE AARDVARK

"High Society"

Best Cover painting

CEREBUS No. 34

"THREE DAYS BEFORE"

Best Cover drawing

CEREBUS No. 43

"ELECTION NIGHT"

Cerebus won all four of the categories for which it qualified. Thanks to all our fans who voted and to David Craven for reporting the results to us. If you are interested in the other results, send a self addressed envelope or 50¢ to David Craven at: 1836 Glenwood Avenue, Independence, MO., 64052

work transcends any influence.

Can you tell me what size your original artwork is? What brush(es) you use? Do you blue pencil your work first? What pen(s) do you use for inking?

Take care and keep up the excellent work.

Sincerely Yours,

Mark T. Bakes
150 Hercules Avenue,
Lomdoc, California 93436

I hope we got your name right, Mark. I am indeed highly influenced by Neal Adams. I think the impact of his work will be felt for many years to come. He is a pioneer in many aspects of the medium we take for granted today. My original artwork is 10 inches long by 15 inches. I draw with HUNT 102 pen nibs on Bainbridge 172 illustration board but I am soon switching to 4 ply strathmore (like next issue) for reasons unknown. I only use blue pencil for ruling up the balloon lettering, balloon outlines and sound effects. For solid blacks, I use Michelle 451 brushes.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Dave,

Huh? Just read #47 and I'm most perplexed. Brilliant but confusing. Funny as hell as well. I'm sure Cerebus will be well rid of his "power" (so to speak). As for who will take over, as someone most assuredly will, I'd opt for an outside choice - ME!

I'm off-the-wall enough to be a politician; hell, slip me a few bucks and I'll be your friend for life (unless your enemies slip me more money than you do).

Best
Future Prime Minister

John A. Wilcox
40 Hales Court,
Westport, CT., 06880

You've been elected by acclamation, John. Please send $8,000 (US) to the above address to cover this year's first quarter's interest on your government loans. Thanx.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Dear Mr. Sim,

Please, do not hurt Jaka. Yes, a graduate student is pleading for the life of a comic book character, and means it. With three issues you have crafted a truly great love story - but the soon-to-come disaster seems to threaten Jaka as well as Cerebus. Tragedy, yes, but not that tragic, please! Do not hurt Jaka!

To be a bit more objective and distant - #48 was a superb issue. The scene with Jaka was a worthy sequel to #36 in both dialog and art. As for the rest - the most impressive thing about the entire "Prime Minister" storyline has been the way in which you've interwoven a steady stream of punchlines with an ever-thickening sense of doom, without weakening either the humor or the overall moodiness. (I've mixed my metaphors horribly - let Moon Roach read it, he should have no trouble - or try it again after a half-bottle of apricot brandy.)

The only thing I didn't like about this issue was your rather condescending remarks to the "blood-thirsty fans" on the letters page. Putting other people down never made anyone look good. Might I suggest that what these people really want is not blood-and gore, but rather, some good old "Cerebus wants to turn Elrod into albino cutlets!" earthpig spunk! It hurts to see Cerebus dancing to someone else's tune. Jaka saw that a long time ago, and gave him back his sword. You say that sword is buried in his closet. Cerebus' spirit is buried in the Prime Minister's uniform. Don't be afraid to dig them both out and let them see the light of day!

"You **can't** kill your domestic affairs advisor -think of the bad publicity" - Huh! Is this the aardvark we know and love?

Whatever you decide to do, best of luck.

Until #300

Francis Herman
134 Tucker Hall,
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, VA., 22901

I take no issue with Cerebus being aggressive and threatening people. As I recall, the letter writer asked me to have Cerebus kill someone and I refused because I didn't want to do it.I also took exception to the implied (possibly in-

This is me with Ted Hanes, organizer of more conventions than you could shake an X-Man fan at. In Rochester N.Y. they got even with me calling it "cold as a bitch and dead as a doornail" in SWORDS volume two by spelling "SIM" with and extra "s" in the local paper. See? No skimpy mustache.

ferred?) criticism that Cerebus was acting out of character. I think I know the character well enough that it would not be very likely to happen at this point. Not the character as I see him anyway.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Dave

I recently had the chance to reread the High Society series, and I would like to say that they were much better the second time around and all at once. Your continuity from issue to issue seems much more natural than that in mainstream comics (no flashbacks in every 1st or 2nd page), but that also makes it more difficult to follow when there is a month wait between issues. What I'm trying to say is that reservations I had the first reading are no longer there. Both times tears came to my eyes when Jaka returned Cerebus' sword.

A few trivial things. First of all I waited for someone to comment on the fact that it appears Bran MacMuffin's hand is on backward at the top of page #41. Also have you thought about the Cerebus cover logo, which isn't as polished as the rest of the book (the letters are somewhat imbalanced). Finally in the letters page an issue or two ago, someone commented on what appeared to him as haste in your drawing of certain pages. Maybe his letter wasn't phrased as tactfully as possible, but you demean yourself when you tell him to scan each issue before he buys it. He wasn't saying that he was going to stop buying Cerebus because of this, he was pointing out something that he had noticed. You could have addressed the issue that he brought up, and told him/us why those pages appeared that way. I'm sure that you have good reason for everything that you've done, some of which might not be seen at first, an example might be the heavy use of black backgrounds at the beginning of the High Society, which I only appreciated the second time around. This related to the way you cut my head off when I complained about the new work in the Swords of Cerebus books. I didn't want to know that if I felt that they weren't worth the money that I shouldn't buy them I wanted to know why you were doing it. And I don't know if it was only recently that you decided to print all of the extra stories together some time in the future, but if you had known that it wouldn't have hurt anything to let me know.

Thanks for the Christmas card.

Dennis Summers
108 Fairview,
Albany, NY., 12208

I was reacting to the tone of the letter. The mail has, oddly enough, gotten less rude in tone in the last month or so. But I had sort of had enough of complaints when I answered that one.

I didn't see it as contributing anything, so I answered it facetiously.

In the case of your complaint about Swords, the reason I was doing new material in the back was to 1) give new fans more for their money 2) to give the completists who feel compelled to buy everything aardvarkian something besides a new cover and introductions 3) to make sure that I would not become a creative hermit and would be forced every once in a while to collaborate on a story with someone whose work I admire. I decided to reprint the back-up stories in an annual because of the controversy your letter generated. So I guess things turned out okay, wouldn't you say?

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Dear Dave and Deni,

Oooooh, you sneaky devil, you. You've got me on pins and needles after reading #49. How will it all "end" (only to begin anew) in #50? After umpteen issues of clever(?) and devious (!) plotting, Cerebus seems set to win the day simply because he decided to **stand up physically** to the invaders!?! This is quite a surprise. Can this be a sop by you, Dave, to pacify those critics who think that Cerebus has become too cerebral (and not violent enough) or does this foreshadow an even stickier and surprising "solution" next issue?

The action at the end of #49 reminds me somewhat of an old "Carry On" movie. The British troops are besieged by rampaging natives and a forlorn junior officer pleads to the bewhiskered commander, "What is your plan, sir?" To which the white-maned old gentleman roars in reply, "Plan? We're British! We don't have a **plan!** We'll **muddle** through, as always! It's the only proper thing to do!"

In any event, after #50 I look for this mag to take a turn for the better. (A 90-degree turn. I don't know about you but my arms get tired holding the sideways-format pages more than they do with a "normal" mag.)

Yours truly,

T.M. Maple
#1180
Toronto, Ontario

This letter is a good example of what I'm talking about. The idea that I would throw in aggressive behavior on Cerebus' part as a "sop" to the books critics implies (inference be damned) that I would write the book in that way. I had the ending of #49 in mind all along, TM, and I felt it very much reflected Cerebus' basic nature and the kind of decisions he was likely to make when cornered. There is absolutely nothing I can (or would) do to "pacify critics". Either people like the book completely of there are things that bother them about it. That situation is going to exist no matter what I do.